



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Shevat/Adar I 5784 - February 2024

## Event Highlights 2024

• Monday, February 5, 2024

**JBC Omer Bartov:**  
**"The Butterfly and the Axe"**

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

**Federation Main Event**

• Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**JBC Deborah Applegate: "Madam:  
The Biography of Polly Adler,  
Icon of the Jazz Age"**

• Wednesday, March 6, 2024

**JBC Sarah Bimbach:**  
**"A Daughter's Kaddish"**

Saturday-Wednesday:  
March 9-13, 2024

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival**

• Monday, March 18, 2024

**Pomegranate Event**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

**Federation Day at Tamarisk**

• Wednesday, April 3, 2024

**JBC Rachel Shteir: "Betty Friedan"**

Monday, April 8, 2024

**Card/Game Day in Sun City**

• Sunday, April 14, 2024

**All Things Israel**

• Thursday, April 18, 2024

**JBC Joe Posnanski**  
**"Why We Love Baseball"**

Sunday, May 5, 2024

**Yom HaShoah; Holocaust  
Remembrance**

**Bold** - Federation Event

• Event held at Federation Offices

## Major Gifts Event



**Alan  
Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

This year's Major Gifts event is going to be a little different than in years past. Considering current events in Israel, the committee has decided to host the event in the Federation building. The evening will be designed to bring our major donors together and thank them for their continued support of our work and our



*Danny Maeng*

current efforts in Israel.

The event will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup>, with the doors opening at 5:00 pm. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, there will be no *couvert* charge for the event. As this will be a unique use

of our building, space will be limited and RSVPs will be required. All donors are encouraged to make their annual campaign pledges in advance. Please RSVP to Gloria at 760-324-4737.

In addition to providing an update on our work in the Coachella Valley and Israel from CEO Alan Potash and President Arnie Gillman, we are delighted to be able to hear from Israeli born musician, Broadway performer, playwright, actor, and educator Danny Maseng.

If you were at the Azi Schwartz concert in January, you experienced a taste of his music. Danny has served the National Endowment for the Arts as evaluator for opera and musical theater. He has been the Director of the Spielberg Fellowships at FJC, the Spiritual Leader of URJ Congregation Agudas Achim in New York, Artistic Director of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and the Cantor of Temple Israel of Hollywood, California.

## Our Community Impact

By Arnie Gillman, Federation President

During my tenure with the Jewish Federation of the Desert, and now as President, I wanted to learn how the Federation is making an impact with our local allocations. I contacted four of our allocation recipients and asked them to share the impact with me.



**Arnie Gillman,**  
President

### Jewish Family Service of the Desert



Jewish Family Service of the Desert (JFS) offers much-needed social services to nearly 3,000 Coachella Valley residents annually, and the Jewish Federation of the Desert (Federation) has been a consistently generous supporter and partner for over forty years. Without the Federation's support, JFS's ability to offer programming designed to prevent homelessness, reduce isolation, and increase independence and longevity for our local seniors would be severely hampered. "The financial support provided by the Federation offers at least

two benefits to JFS.

First, the security of knowing the Federation is there to support our efforts creates confidence that our programs are adequately benefiting the local Jewish community. Second, the Federation's generous support represents a significant portion of the agency budget, allowing the administration to focus a bit more on improving existing programs, creating partnerships, and otherwise determining how we can better serve Coachella Valley residents," notes Kraig Johnson, JFS Executive Director. "The relationship between our two agencies has strengthened over the last several years, and we're tremendously grateful for that fact, believing that a stronger relationship between our agencies only offers benefits for all stakeholders."



**Mizell  
Center**

Mizell Center has been serving the senior community in the Palm Springs area for 50 years. We arrive at this milestone with deepest appreciation for our members, donors and longtime community partners. The Jewish Federation of the Desert has been supporting our mission since 2007,

providing critical grant funding and elevating our profile in the community. Their generous support of our social services programs has enabled Mizell Center to be responsive to the needs of seniors throughout the Coachella Valley. Grant funding has helped to perpetuate two critical, Valley-wide programs:

Our **Meals on Wheels** program, *the largest in the Coachella Valley*, prepares and delivers 800 nutritious meals every weekday to predominately low income seniors on routes that stretch from Whitewater all the way to the Salton Sea. Deliveries are made to homebound seniors and to 5 Valley-based seniors centers in support of their communal lunch programs. Our professional drivers are certified in CPR and also receive training to recognize health and social issues to allow for early intervention.

Our **Case Management** Social Services program connects vulnerable seniors with critical community resources and local and government services. Case Managers provide relief and mitigation with such vital issues as homelessness and housing insecurity, food insecurity, healthcare, entitlements and in-home care services, among many others. This compassionate and responsive service is designed to

*continued on page 7*

everyone  
counts

can we count on you?

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### Alan Potash

Chief Executive Officer

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## Introducing Café Europa 2.0

**Café Europa 2.0: Honoring Holocaust Survivors and Second Generation**

By Leslie Pepper, Director of Community Engagement

For over a decade, Jewish Family Service of the Desert (JFS) has facilitated the Café Europa program, offering education and support to our local Holocaust survivors, a program made possible through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. Now, JFS, the Federation, and local children of Holocaust survivors unite to present Café Europa 2.0—a social gathering specifically for the “second generation,” coinciding with special events facilitated by the Jewish Book Council.

Impactful programs will unfold at the Federation, open to the public and expected to draw significant attendance due to the profound influence of the presenters. Café Europa 2.0 members will receive invitations to exclusive gatherings, providing an opportunity to connect over a delightful “nosh.”

## ... and a Special Event Open to the Community

The community is invited to a virtual program with Omer Bartov, author of the acclaimed study **Anatomy of Genocide**, winner of the National Jewish Book award. The program is Monday, February 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm, at the Jewish Federation.

### ANATOMY OF GENOCIDE

Spring 1944. A Jewish family is murdered in a remote Ukrainian village. Who were they? Who were their killers? Three generations later, an Israeli woman and a British man of Ukrainian origins set out to find out how their families were implicated in this crime. They also discovered how this untold murder has warped their own lives.

Narrated by an unnamed historian, and based on fragments of memories, testimonies, diaries, letters and confessions, this novel seeks to fill a gap in the historical record of the Holocaust by reimagining those who were murdered and erased from memory, and to shed light on the transgenerational effects of trauma.

Omer Bartov is a Holocaust historian, born in Israel and teaches history at Brown University and will be virtually sharing his thoughts with us. Please RSVP to Leslie Pepper at [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org) or at 760-324-4737.



Jewish Federation of the Desert's  
**SWORDS OF IRON**  
EMERGENCY ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

Israel needs our support NOW!  
Go to “Jewish Federation of the Desert” home page and click on “Israel Swords of Iron” to make your contribution. 100% of funds will go to Israel.

# JDC Update

By Shaun Goldstone

I continue to be incredibly inspired by the work of JDC, not just in our rapid and effective response amid the shock and disbelief of October 7, but also in the thoughtful and smart way in which we are thinking about the mid-to-long term challenges for the country, and centering for those who are vulnerable.

The feeling in the country is unlike anything I have experienced before. It is the same Israel that we all know and love, and yet something is different. I felt this difference from the moment I stepped off the plane in an almost empty Ben Gurion airport, to the two rows of hostages' photos that line the familiar pathway to passport control



*Ben Gurion Airport*

(see photo 1.) There is so much trauma, it is visceral, and the impact of October 7 and the aftermath, will be with the country for years to come. Yet, there is a unity in Israel right now that is strong and very palpable. I felt truly honored to visit during this time and know that I will carry this trip with me for a very long time.

Once again, JDC's work is nothing short of miraculous. I could talk about this for hours (and I welcome the opportunity to connect with you 1:1) but here are just a few highlights:

Wemet elderly evacuees from Kiryat Shmona who are living in a hotel in Jerusalem. There was a concerted effort to keep the elderly together as much as possible so that services can be provided for their specific needs. JDC has arranged activities like group exercise classes and entertainment, and has paired evacuees up with a carer, who makes sure they get to various appointments, can access the new benefits to which they are entitled, and provide important companionship so

as to avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness. These important distractions from the harsh reality of not being able to return home, combined with a personal support system is providing a sense of community and also sense of dignity. While they have been in the hotel, a baby was born who now has an infinite number of grandparents ready to take care of him and the evacuees celebrated a bar mitzvah together. As Aron, one of the evacuees said, 'It's not a 5-star hotel, but the people make it a 5-star hotel!' (see photo 2)



*Elderly Evacuees from Kiryat Shmona*

In the Dead Sea we visited some of the schools for evacuees that JDC was instrumental in establishing. On October 7, Tomer, a JDC staff person in our Ashalim (youth and young families-at-risk division) took his sleeping bag and drove down to the Dead Sea where most of the evacuees who survived the massacre had been relocated. He knew that as part of the emergency response, mapping needs and coordinating efforts would be required. Initially Tomer realized that there was no organized mechanism for the kids to attend school or to return to some sort of routine, and that this would be crucial to their rehabilitation. He began overseeing these efforts ensuring that each hotel had a kindergarten and setting up multiple elementary and high schools. Within 4 days, it became clear that the schools were not suitable for children with special needs who required different interventions and for whom the events and aftermath of October 7 were causing extreme regression. JDC then coordinated with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Welfare to repurpose one of the spas in the Dead Sea as a school for children

with special needs, and to work with students from the Betzalel Art School to decorate the space so that it is more child-friendly. Where possible, staff were hired who were already familiar to the children, multiple types of therapy are offered, and the goal is to provide as much familiarity as possible to avoid additional disruptions to this new routine that mimics as best as possible the children's old routines. (see photo 3)



*Spa that has been repurposed into a school for children with special needs*

Lastly, we visited the kindergarten for the children of Kibbutz Beeri who are now living in one of the hotels in the Dead Sea. (see photo 4) It's a



*Yartzeit Memorial candles in the lobby of the hotel for evacuees from Kibbutz Beeri*

fully functional kindergarten, open 8am-4pm, serving two meals a day, with their own vegetable garden. As they had to evacuate so quickly, and with minimal belongings, each child

received their own personalized backpack and water bottle to again provide a sense of normalcy. 'These kids are resilient; they are regular kids who come here happy every day. But if you listen carefully, they talk to each other about what happened and sometimes they play, 'escaping the terrorists.' – Kindergarten teacher (see photo 5)



*Kindergarten for children from Kibbutz Beeri*

These stories represent a small snapshot of the work that JDC is doing and that you are enabling, and hasn't even touched upon our work focused on economic relief and resilience, supporting local governments and civil society, and the rehabilitation of Israel's South. If you have any questions or are interested in hearing more about the work, I would be glad to arrange a call at your convenience.

I also invite you to join JDC's global briefing on January 24, at 12pm ET. You can sign up in advance via this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZArduusqTktGNVt6KRpix1t-VSuK4GJxk2TX> and to consider signing up for the next Fly-In to Israel, January 22-24. To express interest, please fill out this short form.

As we drove down south to the Dead Sea, a colleague remarked, 'If the Joint did not exist, we would need to create one today.' While unfortunately that has never felt truer, I am so grateful to you for ensuring that the Joint does exist and can spring into action whenever and wherever the vulnerable Jews and Israeli citizens need us.

With deep gratitude and the hope for a peaceful 2024, Shaun.

## Beyond the Boundaries



### Alan Potash

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

A new feature I am working on in the JCN is highlighting individuals who do

creative things. Last month I featured the artwork and exhibit of Alison Hyman. This month I want to share the work of Nina Zale. During our Feast of Jewish Learning presentation, by coincidence I noticed two people recognize each other. One was an Israeli soldier Molly, a wounded Israeli soldier. The other person was Nina Zale. Nina and Molly first met in Aspen, Colorado through a nonprofit that brings Israeli wounded soldiers to Aspen to learn to ski. Molly was one of the soldiers and

Nina was involved with the organization. They reconnected by chance at the Federation.

I was so impressed with Molly's story and then talking with Nina. I wanted to learn more about the program. Nina told me she made a documentary about the program which she let me watch. Nina is planning to show the documentary soon. Please look for details.

Here is Nina's story about creating a documentary about the Ski to Live called "Beyond the Boundaries."

## Ski to Live's "Beyond the Boundaries"

By Nina Zale



In 2011, I was determined to find a way to share the miracle of Golshim with the world. I had never made a film before, but I was able to raise funds to write, produce and edit my 60 minute documentary, "Beyond The Boundaries". I hired an Israeli wounded veteran as my director, and my production crew was in Israel. The film was featured in over 50 Jewish film festivals in the United States and Canada, raising funds and awareness, inspiring others to become involved.

This coming February 27 through March 5, 2024, will mark the seventeenth year of a program that has been my passion and inspiration since it's inception.

Golshim L'chaim, Ski To Live, a nonprofit,

all volunteer program, started in 2008 in Aspen CO, by a small group of volunteers and Rabbi Mendel Mintz of Aspen's Chabad Jewish Community Center, assisted by Jewish Colorado. The focus of the program is to bring injured IDF veteran soldiers to ski and snowboard in Aspen as a respite and rehabilitation from their injuries. Hundreds of Israeli men and women veteran soldiers, injured in battle or terror attacks, have benefited from the healing experience of overcoming their physical obstacles on the mountains of Colorado, overcoming the challenges of their injuries, and even changing their lives.

2008 was the same year I was receiving my chemotherapy and recovering from breast

cancer. I was moved by the determination and ability of these brave individuals who came so near death and yet were able to overcome their pain, extensive surgeries, extended hospital stays and traumatic thoughts while gliding down the slopes. I have benefited greatly by my continued association with these heroes, as has the entire Aspen Jewish community.

The goal this year for Golshim 2024 is to expand the program to include hostages and hostage families, and to accommodate as many injured as we have adaptive equipment and instructors. We have now partnered with Beit Halochem, the rehab hospitals in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem so that we can offer this experience to a greater injured population.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 51, No. 7

### EDITORIAL

Alan Potash, CEO  
Miriam H. Bent, Editor  
Bailey Communications,  
Layout & Design

### JCN STATEMENT

The Jewish Community News seeks to provide news and feature material

of special interest to its readership, and to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad. The JCN seeks to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in the Jewish community.

The JCN is published monthly, ten months a year by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, 760-324-4737, fax 760-324-3154.

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor  
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The JCN is not responsible if ads violate applicable laws and the advertiser will indemnify, hold harmless and defend the JCN from all claims made by government agencies and consumers for any reason based on ads carried in the JCN.



## Women's Philanthropy Welcomes Author of "Madame"

Women's Philanthropy is excited to welcome Deborah Applegate, author of "Madame", the biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age. This event is part of our collaboration with the Jewish Book Council and is being held at the Jewish Federation offices on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 10:00 am.

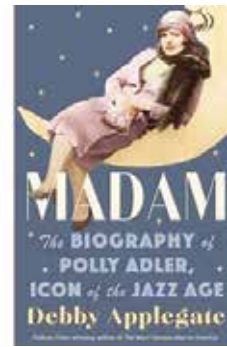
"Madame" is compulsively readable and sometimes jaw-dropping story of

the life of a notorious madam who played hostess to every gangster, politician, writer, sports star and Cafe Society swell worth knowing and who, as much as any single figure, helped make the twenties



Deborah Applegate

roar. Applegate's book about Polly Adler, who immigrated from Russia to escape the pogroms at 13, landed alone at Ellis Island in 1913 with no money and little formal



education. is a social history of New York through the prism of prostitution. A fascinating read.

Join us at 9:30 am for a Valentine nosh before the program, which will begin promptly at 10:00. Please RSVP to Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org).

## U.N. Agency Teachers Cheered Hamas as October Attack Unfolded

### Called for Execution of Jews in Group Chat

By Kayla Bartsch, National Review

Teachers working for the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East



(UNRWA) cheered as Hamas terrorists raped and murdered Israelis on October 7, according to recently divulged transcripts of a UNRWA Gaza online group.

More than 3,000 UNRWA teachers in Gaza belong to the social media group, which is hosted on the instant messaging platform Telegram and was exposed by the watchdog group UN Watch. The digital forum contains posts celebrating the massacre of October 7 just moments after it began.

"This is the motherlode of UNRWA

teachers' incitement to Jihadi terrorism," said Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch.

UNRWA teacher Waseem Ula — username "A. Handsome" — administers the chat. Ula has posted information on salaries from UNRWA Gaza education chief Sami Abu Kamil. He has also called for the execution of Jews: "Let's execute the first settler lives near [sic]."

At one point in the chat, Ula informs the group's 3,000 UNRWA teachers

that "salaries will be paid on Sunday." Later on, he shares a video glorifying Hamas attacks and posts a photo of a suicide bomb vest wired with explosives, with the caption: "Wait, sons of Judaism." Ula also praised terrorist Akran Abu Hasanen who died during the October 7 attack as a "Qassami martyr," "friend" and "brother." He prayed to Allah to "admit him to paradise without judgment."

Another UNRWA teacher, Abdallah Mehjez urged Gazans to ignore Israel's

warnings to evacuate war zones and move out of harm's way. "We call on citizens not to respond to text messages and audio recordings that call for the displacement of residents from the north and Gaza to the south [sic]." According to his LinkedIn, Mehjez has worked as an English Language Teacher for UNRWA since 2021. His profile also states he worked as a journalist for the BBC from 2018 to 2022.

**Ladies, New to the Desert?**  
Jewish Federation  
Women's Philanthropy  
has its welcome mat  
out for you!

Planning a move to the Desert?  
We have useful information for you.  
Call Leslie Pepper, WP Coordinator  
**760-324-4737**  
email: [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org)  
or check our website [www.jfedps.org](http://www.jfedps.org).

Temple Isaiah ~ Jewish Community Center  
ELEVENTH ANNUAL  
**PALM SPRINGS  
JEWISH FILM  
FESTIVAL**

**March 9-13, 2024**

Platinum Pass \$150 (Includes VIP Event)  
Individual movies \$12 • VIP Event \$35  
Check out our new website:  
[PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org](http://PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org)  
Sponsorships welcomed. Call for information.  
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**2024 ~ Celebrating our 11<sup>th</sup> Year!**

- Outstanding Movies & Documentaries
- Champagne VIP Event  
 **Suzanne Somers, One Incredible Life™**  
A Personal Q&A with Alan Hamel  
Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 PM - Camelot Theatres
- Red carpet events will include Celebrities, Producers, Directors and Writers in person!
- Q & A Discussions following screenings

*Feature Films*

- Less Than Kosher
- Matchmaking
- Golda
- Shttl
- Home
- All About the Levkoviches
- The Boy in the Woods
- The Goldman Case
- No Name Restaurant

*Documentaries*

- Remembering Gene Wilder
- Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre
- Rabbi on the Block
- Israel Swings for Gold
- Symphony of the Holocaust

*Subject to change*

# Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks to Become New Spiritual Leader at Congregation Beth Shalom

Bill Singer, President of Congregation Beth Shalom has announced the appointment of Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks as the synagogue's Mara d'Atra (rabbinic authority) and Spiritual Leader beginning July 1, 2024.

Rabbi Sacks has been serving Congregation Am HaYam, located in Ventura, CA, since January 2012. Concurrently, he is the Education and Curriculum Specialist for Stories of Music, an adult education project of the Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Rabbi Sacks hails from Monroe, Michigan, and descends from 17 generations of rabbis on his mother's side. He has earned graduate degrees from the University of Judaism (now AJU), where he received the Isadore Familian Award in Talmudic Studies, and Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) where he received his rabbinic ordination. Rabbi Sacks possesses a Doctor of Ministry degree from



*Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks* Claremont School of Theology and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from JTS, acknowledging his work in social justice and inclusion. He also possesses a special *Rav Ha-Makhshir* certification from the Conservative Movement, for the supervising of *kashrut*.

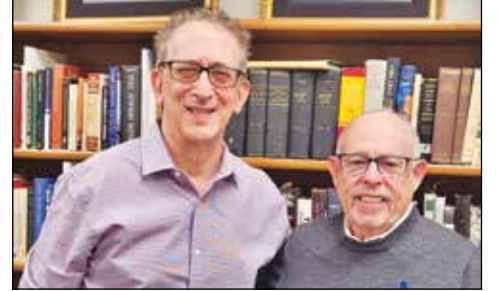
A long-time advocate of acceptance and inclusion within Jewish life, Rabbi Sacks is the first openly LGBTQ+ rabbi

in the Conservative Movement and the first of any movement to be engaged as the senior rabbi of a non-LGBTQ+ congregation.

Rabbi Sacks previously served as Director of Jewish Life at De Toledo High School in West Hills, CA, where he also taught in the Jewish Studies Department and chaired the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) track. He served for many years on the faculty of Academy for Jewish Religion, California (AJRCA), heading the Department of Jewish History, teaching future rabbis, cantors, and chaplains. He has served congregations in Jersey City, NJ, Arcadia and Encino, CA, and has served as a medical center chaplain, Hillel director, and held leadership positions at Camp Ramah (Ojai, CA) and Los Angeles Hebrew High School.

Rabbi Sacks is actively involved in the Conservative Movement and, especially, in the Rabbinical Assembly, where he has been a member for many years. He serves on several committees, including the Racial Justice and LGBTQ+ Equality

subcommittees of USCJ's Social Justice Commission. An author of several works, his most recent publication is *Psalms in the Key of Healing: A Text Study for*



*Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks and Ken Hailpern, Beth Shalom's spiritual leader since 2010.*

*Clergy, Chaplains and People Living with Illness.* He resides in Palm Desert with his husband, Steven Karash.

Ken Hailpern, who has led Congregation Beth Shalom since 2010 will retire from his position as Spiritual Leader on June 30, 2024. With a half century of experience in synagogue and Jewish institutional leadership in Colorado and Southern California, he will continue to be a valued asset to the Beth Shalom Family.

## Hibuki Therapy Helps Israeli Children Cope with Trauma

**"Hibuki becomes a trusted companion that children can nurture as they progress on their path to recovery."**

*By Josh Hasten, Jewish News Syndicate*

Employees of Israel's Telem Institute, a nationwide network of mental health clinics, have been traveling around the country to help children suffering from anxiety and trauma in the wake of Hamas's Oct. 7 invasion of southern Israel.

The Telem volunteers are utilizing an Israeli invention—a therapeutic stuffed dog named Hibuki ("huggie" in Hebrew).

Dr. Shai Hen-Gal, who invented the Hibuki doll in collaboration with the late professor Avi Sade during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, told JNS that Hibuki has been used to treat more than 1,200 children in Israel since Oct. 7.

Hen-Gal is chief psychologist at Amal and Beyond, a leading Israeli nursing home conglomerate and Telem's parent company.

Hen-Gal said that Hibuki was "scientifically proven to be the most effective treatment for children aged



*The Hibuki doll has been used to treat more than 1,200 children in Israel since Oct. 7*

7-13." He explained that children are introduced to Hibuki by a skilled therapist who utilizes play, art, or conversation to assist them in expressing their experiences and initiating the

healing process after trauma.

"Hibuki becomes a trusted companion that children can nurture as they progress on their path to recovery," he said.

"When we arrived at one of the hotels [housing refugees and survivors from both southern and northern Israel], a 22-year-old woman who saw Hibuki burst into tears," said Hen-Gal.

"She explained that she was treated using Hibuki in 'Operation Protective Edge' in Gaza in 2014, and still has her own Hibuki with her at home today," he said.

Telem has 140,000 Hibuki dogs in stock for treatment in Israel, and an additional 10,000 are being manufactured.

Hen-Gal and his Amal and Beyond team, along with partners abroad, have led interventions with 150,000 children, including those affected by the war in Ukraine, tsunamis in Japan and the recent earthquakes in northeast Turkey. After a scientific study showing Hibuki's effectiveness was published, it received recognition in the most important newspaper in Iran, though with the country of origin (Israel) omitted.

# How, Where, and When to Volunteer in Israel.

By Alan Potash, CEO

Since Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> I have been receiving calls from people in our community to find out how to help Israel during this difficult time. Number one way to help is to help financially through our Swords of Iron Emergency Campaign. The other way is to go and volunteer. A few days after the war started I started calling our contacts in Israel to learn if there was a need for volunteers. "Yes, we need people to pick vegetables and milk the cows," I was told. Three months later this is still a need.

I have been investigating volunteer opportunities for people in our community to help in Israel. With so many people being called up to reserve duty and with the destruction of farms and kibbutzim in the south, there is a real need for volunteers.

Individual organizations, businesses and communities are looking for people who want to come to Israel and help. Some require to be in good physical condition and others not so.

Here is a list and breakdown of options.



I will start with the one that is probably the most well-known: Sar-El. Sar-El is a citizen volunteer service to work on IDF Bases. You get to live and work on an army base and help the IDF at the same time. The work varies depending on the needs on the base. One perk of the job is it comes with an army uniform.

A new project is called Startup Reserves for Israel. Instead of an army uniform this one might come with a laptop. Over 20% of high-tech workers have been called up to reserve duty and tech companies are short staffed and need a variety of tech workers.

There are numerous mobile meal kitchens that have stepped up to feed soldiers and

evacuees. If you can cook or clean pots, there might be a need for you. Citrus and Salt, Pantry Packers, and Onefamily are a few I can connect you with.

One of the more meaningful opportunities is called adopt-a-safta (you need a car), this program delivers Shabbat meals to isolated seniors and holocaust survivors.

Leket Israel, assigns you to farmers and fields who need help harvesting their produce.

Here are a few others; EVP or Emergency Volunteers Project sets up mobile kitchens for soldiers. Israel Food Rescue this organization needs you for more than a couple of days and will help you with housing if you commit to working in the fields.

In short there are many needs that need to be filled on the ground in Israel. You will need sign up in advance of departing for Israel. Some will provide housing but not all of them. If you are interested, please give me a call. Dates are flexible.

*continued from page 1*

improve our clients' quality of life and increase functional independence. Services are free and available to seniors, age 60+, throughout the Coachella Valley.

We believe the significance of what we do is reflected back to us by those we serve and by those who support us. We honored and very proud to have earned the longtime support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

## Bikur Cholim Palm Springs

### Bikur Cholim

For over 30 years Bikur Cholim of Palm Springs has been reaching out & helping people in need. We receive many calls from hospitals, nursing homes, hospice and homebound people. Baruch HaShem, with the generous funding of the Jewish Federation, we are able to answer all requests from people all throughout the Coachella Valley and beyond. We are able to distribute challahs and Shabbos kits every week in various facilities. Through the Federation's funding we are able to focus more time and energy on our mission and priorities. Our programs include visiting children at Angel View, bringing toys to children of all ages and reaching out to the population of Desert Hot Springs & Yucca Valley.

Chanukah at Boomers is a big hit, it was

a grand evening of lots of fun. Every child walked away with a prize!! We like to thank the Federation, the JMOGD & Tamarisk CC for donating many games & toys for our various Chanukah programs.

Once again, Thank You Federation for helping us help others. Am Yisroel Chai!!

Rabbi Yankel & Rochel Kreiman  
Rabbi Mendy & Chaya Kreiman  
Bikur Cholim of Palm Springs

### Angel View

In 2024, Angel View celebrates 70 years of service to children and adults with disabilities in the Coachella Valley.



And through much of that time, the Jewish Federation of the Desert has stood alongside us as a partner to those who need it most. Our two Jewish homes, Joel's House and Friedman House, have been warmly embraced by the Federation and we are humbled by the support year in and year out. Our residents rely on these donations to live life to its maximum potential.

From remodeled adaptive and Kosher kitchens to new energy efficient air conditioning systems to a wheelchair-equipped van to stay on the go, our residents are blessed. Our children are recipients of holiday toy drives, and our residents look forward to special Thanksgiving dinners courtesy of your membership.

Currently, thanks to a donation to our adult Day Program, our indoor therapy hot mineral springs pool is being upgraded for all clients to enjoy for years to come, thanks to this much-needed and ongoing partnership.

## Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter or the Israel updates? If not, please check your junk mail file.



The Jewish Federation has a robust weekly eblast emailed on Friday afternoons to over 1800

email addresses. Do you receive it?

If you have received it in the past but haven't received it lately it might be in your junk or spam folder. If it is, you need to go into the email settings and highlight the email and move it into the main folder—you can also call the office and we will walk you through how to fix it. It is important that you receive the eblast because we share information not just for the Federation but also for the local Jewish organizations

that send us their events.

If you have never received the eblast it means we do not have your email address ... and we not only invite you but urge that you send us your email so that you can be "in" our community. We do not inundate you with emails ... this is a once-a-week Friday afternoon transmission with important news that impacts us as a Jewish community. Please join us. Email your email to [bebsabe.morrison@jfedps.org](mailto:bebsabe.morrison@jfedps.org).

# Temple Sinai Screening of “Last Flight Home” Followed by Panel on California’s End of Life Options Sunday, February 25

By Rabbi David Novak

The Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund and Temple Sinai are pleased to present a screening of “Last Flight Home,” a documentary where we discover Eli Timoner and an extraordinary life of wild achievements, tragic loss and most of all

enduring love. Last Flight Home shares a stunning verite account of a courageous family confronting life and death. Following the film, a panel discussion featuring Dr. Judy Neill Epstein, executive director of End of Life Options and

Rabbi Suzanne Singer, rabbi emerita of Temple Beth El in Riverside.

The event is on Sunday morning, February 25 at 9:30 beginning with coffee and bagels, followed by the screening and panel.

Temple Sinai is located at 73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. RSVPs are appreciated by calling 760-568-9699.

## Covert Watchdog Group Opens Up About Efforts to Expose Anti-Israel Hatred

By Troy O. Fritzhand, *The Algemeiner*

Canary Mission, an antisemitism watchdog group, has made headlines since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war for its work exposing groups and individuals that support the Palestinian terror group and express hatred for the Jewish state.

Critics have accused Canary Mission of what they call unfair “doxing,” or publicizing information about a person or organization without their consent. However, that has not stopped the watchdog from calling out a wide range of entities for allegedly antisemitic behavior and spreading hateful ideology throughout North America, especially on college campuses.

The organization, which operates anonymously, spoke to *The Algemeiner* about its work since Hamas’ Oct. 7 massacre in southern Israel. To stay anonymous and protect the safety of staff, the group did not attribute its remarks to a specific individual.

Since the outbreak of the war, Canary Mission has been working on what it calls four “significant” developments.

“First, there has been a sharp escalation in global antisemitism, both in frequency and severity,”

a representative said. “We are no longer discussing simple breaches of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. Discourse has alarmingly shifted to overt expressions of hate, including endorsements of Hamas’ violence against Jews, coupled with a stark indifference to the suffering of kidnapped, raped, and murdered Jews.”

Antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed globally since the Hamas atrocities of Oct. 7. Most recently, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a 360 percent surge in such incidents over the past three months, with about two-thirds directly related to the Israel-Hamas war.

“Second,” Canary Mission continued, “antisemites on the left and right seem even more willing to work with each other in their common cause against Jews and Israel.”

“Third, a bipartisan consensus has emerged with a clear recognition of the extreme antisemitism fostered within the anti-Israel movement,” the group added.

Lastly, Canary Mission addressed the

presidents of Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) refusing to say at a congressional hearing last month that calling for the genocide of Jews would violate their schools’ codes of conduct against bullying and harassment.

“Fourth, despite the dismal failure of Harvard, UPenn, and MIT leadership to condemn calls for the genocide against Jews, there have been some positive campus developments,” the watchdog said. “Several universities have finally understood that Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is essentially an incubator for hatred and have taken action against them.”

Some schools have banned or suspended SJP chapters, which have orchestrated pro-Hamas demonstrations on campuses across the US, for violating school rules.

Over the past three months, Canary Mission has, among other projects, linked US Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) to fundraisers with Hamas ties, profiled dozens of signatories of a letter denouncing Israel just one day after the Oct. 7 massacre, and exposed the organizers of a recent rally in Philadelphia that targeted a local Jewish restaurant for having a history of backing Hamas and calling for the destruction of Israel.

“Our support has significantly grown since the war began,” Canary Mission said. “The traffic to our website has substantially increased, reflecting the heightened interest in our cause ... Our new support comes from across the political spectrum from individuals and organizations who understand the danger and hatred Jews are facing. Naturally, we have also received plenty of threats and abuse from neo-Nazis

and anti-Israel activists alike.”

Canary Mission described its work as necessary and “far from finished” in combating “unfounded hatred towards Jews and the Jewish state.”

“Since our inception in 2015, Canary Mission has stood as a vigilant watchdog against antisemitism, with a particular focus on the spread of antisemitism in academic institutions,” the group said. “From UPenn to Harvard, our findings reveal an unsettling reality that has been simmering in American academia for years ... Our work is comprehensive. We highlight instances of antisemitism across the political landscape and refuse to ignore or excuse it regardless of its source. The profiles we create are not just records but tools that hold individuals accountable for their words and actions. In doing so, we create lasting consequences for those who propagate hate against Jews and Israel.”

Canary Mission dismissed criticism that it’s doxing, saying it does not release any personal information such as home addresses, emails, or phone numbers. The watchdog added it “presents an individual’s words and actions. This enables the public to form their own opinion and decide on their own response to the content presented.”

Concluding, the group said, “Critics will continue to dislike the Canary Mission platform, and supporters will continue to recognize the vital importance of shining a light on anti-Jewish hatred during this difficult time in our history.”

“And a note to our critics: We are not going away — we have only just begun.”

Save the date: Sunday, March 17 at 3 PM  
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**Wayne Abравanel**  
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# Survivors of the Nova Massacre Work Through Trauma at Unique Israeli Therapy Center

By Larry Luxner, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Fifteen young men and women, seemingly oblivious to their surroundings and to each other, dance around a bucolic field, twisting their bodies to trance music blasting through their headphones.

Beyond their earphones is silence, except for the constant rumble of fighter jets taking off from Ramat David air base in the nearby Jezreel Valley.

Yet the aircraft and the dancers are connected.

Some of these jets are heading south toward Gaza, to bomb the hideouts and munitions storehouses of Hamas terrorists who on Oct. 7 killed 1,200 Israelis — including some 360 attendees of the Nova music festival that took place that morning in a field near Gaza. In recent weeks, survivors of the massacre at the Nova rave have been coming to this retreat center at Kibbutz Hazorea to try to overcome their trauma.

"This is the first time I've danced since that day," said Noa Maman, 21, of Yokneam. "It's been very hard for me."

About 60 people have participated so far in the trauma recovery program being run by *Free Spirit Experience*, a nonprofit group that in normal times uses its facilities at Hazorea (and another one in Cyprus) for treatment programs for young Jewish adults from Israel and abroad suffering from anxiety, depression, or drug or alcohol problems.

Free Spirit repurposed its trauma treatment program within two weeks of Oct. 7, launching the first of its three-day therapeutic workshops for Nova survivors on Oct. 23. Since then it has held six more, each with five to 15 participants and at no cost to attendees.

"We had a staff member whose cousin was injured in the festival; Each of us knew somebody who was there," said Free Spirit's managing director, Rami Bader. "We talked about the trauma these people might have and decided to use our resources to help them."

Using yoga, pottery making, dancing, acupuncture, carpentry and even ice baths, survivors of the massacre gradually come out of their shells and begin to talk. The idea is to give participants a sense of safety and community to share and talk about their emotions. Some are able to open up in group therapy sessions; for others it happens over communal activities like preparing meals.



Survivors of the Nova party massacre on October 7, 2023 participate in trance therapy as part of a trauma recovery program at Kibbutz Hazorea in northern Israel

"When we have our first group meeting, some have been waiting for the opportunity to tell their stories, but not all of them," Bader said. "By the end all of them share, but not because we pushed them. Many times, it's not even us. We just sit there and they share among themselves."

Trauma survivors who seek help early on have a chance to build resilience rather than develop PTSD, experts say.

"We know that post-traumatic stress disorder can develop a few months after the trauma, or years after," Bader said.

Omer Ovadia, 24, lost three of his best friends in the Nova attack. He has memorialized them with a tattoo on his right forearm bearing their names: Dvir, Lia and Sahar. "It was about 6:30 a.m. when Hamas started to shoot rockets," Ovadia recalled. "Immediately, they stopped the music and everybody ran to their cars. We started driving, but after seven minutes terrorists came running after everybody. We quickly left the car and started running east, toward Patish. I remembered my army survival skills, so we zigzagged left and right, kicking up dust so they couldn't see or shoot at us."

By 3 p.m., over eight hours after the attack began, Ovadia and 20 others — all hungry, thirsty and filthy — arrived at Patish. Dozens of others in their group, including his three friends, didn't make it. Some of his friends were taken captive to Gaza.

The trauma starting to hit him that evening.

"I was sitting in a car and started to cry, realizing what we had been through,"

Ovadia said. "Even now I still don't know the depth of the trauma."

Tamir Rotman, a psychologist and Free Spirit's clinical director, said survivors of massacres often feel extremely agitated, tortured by flashbacks and unable to leave home. He tries to help them find stability and a sense of normalcy.

"The huge factor is alleviating guilt and self-criticism," Rotman said. "It's very typical for people who go through extreme situations to feel survivor's guilt. For example, some will say, 'I pushed my friends to come, but I survived and they didn't.' Or 'Why didn't I fight back?' These are normal mechanisms that our brain uses to try to gain some control over the situation."

Many participants in Free Spirit's program say that being in the sheltered environment at Hazorea has helped them find some relief. Maman said it took her two months just to gather the strength to spend a night away from home and come to Hazorea. She still hasn't been able to return to her job.

"I'm not working at all now. I can't focus my attention on anything specific for more than a few hours because it takes too much energy," Maman said. "I'm exhausted. My head is always taking me back to that day."

She added, "After what happened, it was really hard to trust other people and open up like this. But this experience has given me hope. There are good people with good intentions, and there's a future for humanity."

After several sessions, Bader is trying to raise the funds necessary to keep the program going. Each three-day workshop

costs \$40,000, and Bader says Free Spirit needs to raise \$200,000 because its other revenue-generating programs are on hold due to the war. (Supporters can contribute online to support the program at [freespiritexperience.org/donate](https://freespiritexperience.org/donate).)

Free Spirit has moved its regular therapy programs treating anxiety, depression, and alcohol and drug issues to its site in Cyprus. That program, which caters to Jews from around the world and includes Jewish components, aims at fostering wellbeing and a sense of purpose through communal activities and therapeutic care. A similar philosophy guides Free Spirit's unique Oct. 7 trauma program.

Ido Cohen of Yokneam decided to try Free Spirit after struggling to recover from his Nova experience on his own.

When the attack began on Oct. 7, Cohen, 21, a project manager at a human resources firm who makes trance music in his spare time, thought the booms he was hearing were coming from the show stage. Then he saw rockets exploding in the air and everyone rush for the exits. Sleep-deprived and high on ecstasy, Cohen said, he and his friends had trouble finding their car. As soon as they began driving they heard gunshots and saw other cars with bullet holes and shattered glass littering the road.

They started running through the fields, hiding in trenches and inside bushes amid explosions and gunfire. Six and a half hours would pass before they reached a dirt road where a vehicle took them to safety at Patish.

Cohen said his life hasn't been the same since.

"I was a heavy weed smoker before this attack," he said. "After Oct. 7, I stopped smoking. I stopped eating. I stopped living. I didn't leave my house for two weeks. It was pure hell. I don't think it's a question of time. This will be a part of my life forever. I just need to accept it."

Recovery can take a long time. Ovadia has come back to Free Spirit for three rounds of therapy, finding each time a greater degree of confidence and optimism about the future. He says he believes it will take him a year or two to recover emotionally.

"I have no doubt that in the end I'm going to be fine," Ovadia said. "And I'm sure I'll be stronger."

# A Step Back in Time Leaves Participants With New Impressions and Conversation

By Lynda Zionts



No doubt you knew someone who attended the 14th Annual Har-El Women's Retreat that was held Sunday, January 14th. Hostess were Andy and Marylynn Gladstein. Their commitment has spanned a decade.

The gathering drew Har-El members

as well as members of Beth Shalom, Sun City Jewish Congregation, Temple Isaiah and Temple Sinai. Presidents of the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert as well as their board members were also present.

They came to be both entertained and educated. Of course, not to mention that waiting for their arrival were ten committee members dressed in white blouses and black slacks with warm croissants and hot coffee.

The day's mood was a step into the past and to learn more about "Mobsters and Mitzvot" and how this impacted Las Vegas.

In the theatre of one hundred seats the audience settled in and became serious.

The presentation were given by Marcie Kaufman, Director of Special Projects at the Mob Museum, Las Vegas, Nevada and Rosa Weinstein, an anthropologist who holds a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies.

Ms. Kaufman caught everyone's attention when she elaborated on the Mob Museum and said: "While it's called The Mob Museum, it is in fact the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, a serious history museum that shows both sides of the story. Rather than glorifying gangsters, the Museum aims to provide an evenhanded approach to the mob, the police work required to put a stop to their illegal activities, and the impact made on our society."

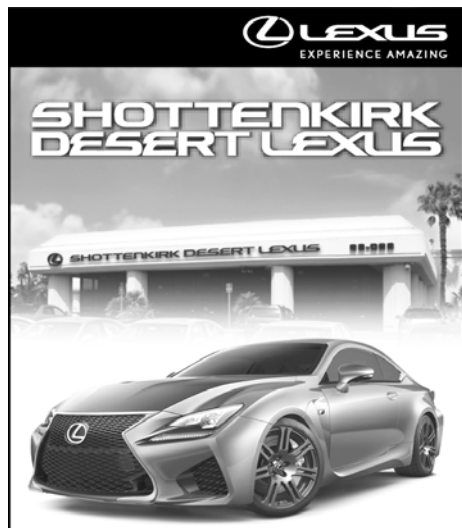
With an outstanding video and prepared commentary, Kaufman opened the doors of the Museum to the audience and left everyone wanting to drive or fly to Las Vegas and participate in the "hands-on" learning experience.

Mrs. Weinstein presented history and anecdotes on the Jewish mobsters, often bringing humor and sensitivity and, at the same time, expressing seriousness about crimes committed.

The presentations were followed by the conclusion of the Silent Auction, Ha-Motzi, and a seated light brunch.

The group attending, collectively, developed a personality that clearly was one of creating community.

Everyone left with a sweet taste in their mouths. Six-inch black and white cookies, baked by Sherman's Deli were distributed to each guest as they departed the event.



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## DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.

# US court rules Madrid Museum Can Keep Pissarro Painting Looted by the Nazis

By Jackie Hajdenberg, JTA

"Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain" by Camille Pissarro hangs in Lilly Neubauer's home in Berlin. (Image via court records)

(JTA) — A United States appeals court ruled Tuesday that a Madrid museum may keep a painting that had been looted by the Nazis from a Jewish woman and has been sought after by her descendants since 2005.

The provenance of Pissarro's 1897 oil painting "Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain" is one of the longest-running Holocaust arts restitution cases in history.

Tuesday's ruling had nothing to do with whether the Nazis stole the painting, but whether Spanish or California law applied in the dispute. It is also a departure from a recent spate of victories by victims of the Holocaust whose property was looted by the Nazis and whose descendants have sought to reclaim their family's stolen assets.

The Pissarro painting was owned by Lilly Cassirer, born Neubauer, in 1939, who was forced to sell it for 900 Reichsmarks, or about \$360 at the time, in order to obtain an exit visa for England. The money was deposited into a bank account that she was not allowed to access.

In 1958, Neubauer made a claim against the new German Federal Republic and reached a settlement for the stolen painting, accepting a compensation of about \$250,000. Today, the painting is estimated to be worth tens of millions of dollars. Neubauer died in 1966.

The painting made its way around the world over the decades, from a private collection in St. Louis to Beverly Hills and then to a New York gallery, where Swiss art collector Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, the heir to a German steel fortune, purchased it. For a while, Thyssen-Bornemisza kept the painting in Switzerland before eventually selling it to the Kingdom of Spain in 1993, which established a foundation and a museum from his art collection.

Upon learning the location of the painting, Neubauer's sole heir, her



*Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain" by Camille Pissarro hangs in Lilly Neubauer's home in Berlin. (Image via court records)*

grandson Claude Cassirer, sued for its return in 2005. He died five years later, and now his son David, his daughter Ava's estate and the Jewish Federation of San Diego County are handling the case.

Circuit Judge Carlos Bea said Tuesday that Spain's concern with granting "certainty of title" took precedence over California's preference for discouraging theft and recovering stolen art for victims who live there. He specifically cited that the Museo Thyssen had "in good faith" owned and displayed the painting for three years before the Cassirers brought forth a lawsuit challenging its provenance, which, according to Spanish law, means the museum is the rightful owner.

In her concurring opinion, Circuit Judge Consuelo Callahan said that Spain should have voluntarily relinquished the painting.

"Sometimes our oaths of office and an appreciation of our proper roles as appellate judges require that we concur in a result at odds with our moral compass," she wrote. "For me, this is such a situation."

The lawyers for the Cassirer family believe the ruling was incorrect, and said they would seek a review of the decision.

"Among the important issues, the

court's decision fails to explain how Spain has any interest in applying its

laws to launder ownership of the spoils of war, a practice outlawed in the Hague Convention of 1907, and a series of other international agreements joined by Spain for over a century," they said in a [joint statement](#). "Nor does it explain how a national museum owned by the Spanish government justifies holding onto a painting that it knows was looted by the Nazis from a Jewish family in the Holocaust."

"The Cassirers believe that, especially in light of the explosion of antisemitism in this country and around the world today, they must challenge Spain's continuing insistence on harboring Nazi looted art," the lawyers [added](#). "This decision also gives a green light to looters around the world."

Thaddeus Stauber, a lawyer representing the Museo Thyssen, called the ruling "a welcome conclusion to this case."



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Email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com). You will receive up to date information on all intellectual pursuits and details of the Har-EI Spring/Summer Film Series.



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# Why Israel's Air Power Did Not Paralyze the Hamas Factories of Death

Inside an unassuming building in the heart of a Gaza neighborhood normally teeming with civilians lies was once a massive munitions facility.

By Neta Bar, Jewish News Syndicate

It is easy to see that the dirt field and ruins located at the edge of the Al-Bureij refugee camp, in the heart of the Gaza Strip, was once a densely populated residential neighborhood. Here is a withered lawn; there a few chickens peck indifferently among armored vehicles.

But inside a small, unimpressive building, in the heart of a neighborhood normally teeming with civilians, fighters from the IDF's 188th "Barak" Armored Brigade uncovered what was once a bustling munitions facility.

Inside the building, next to a comfortable, air-conditioned room, there was an entrance leading down into a tunnel dug about 100 feet deep. Entering the shaft causes immediate eye irritation due to the chemicals Hamas terrorists to produce large quantities of explosive material for rockets, mortar shells and IEDs.

"This was the commanders' entrance," says Col. Or Wolozhinsky as he displays the chemical protection suit used by the terrorists. "They would come every morning to this building, like workers to a regular office, drink coffee, cool off in the air conditioning, and then go below where they produced explosive material for missiles fired at Israel."

Wolozhinsky explains that the location of the underground plant is no coincidence. "The facility was situated near Salah al-Din Road, a humanitarian corridor that Israel refrained from attacking during the fighting," says the commander, as we pass by the tunnel entrance.

In a large factory shed, the soldiers show dozens of industrial metal melting,



molding and engraving machines. Large containers hold tens of thousands of unassembled mortar shells, with fuses nearby. At the far end of the shed, there is a large shaft with an elevator. Most production was done underground, where the finished products were readied for shipment.

In an adjacent structure are dozens of long-range missiles, capable of hitting northern Israel and nearly ready for use, lacking only warhead and paint. This building too has a huge shaft leading to an underground production space.

"The room below is huge. They only brought finished products above ground to transfer to the launch sites," says Lt. Col. Ohad Moyal, commander of the Golani Reconnaissance Battalion.

The terrorists did not give up the expansive industrial complex easily.

"We saw hard fighting here. They counterattacked, blew up shafts, and set booby traps. Ultimately, they can't stand against a force like ours over time, but they continued producing weapons

up till the last moment, just as we were meters away from them," says Moyal.

Other weapons factories were also found for the production of explosives, rocket guidance systems, mortar shells, small arms and drones.

"This is the largest weapons manufacturing site we have discovered since the beginning of the war," IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said during his daily press briefing.

"This factory was connected to an underground tunnel system, through which weapons were transferred throughout the Gaza Strip. The rockets manufactured there were launched towards central Israel and other areas in the State of Israel. We will continue to operate against Hamas's manufacturing infrastructure, against their underground system and Hamas leaders throughout the Gaza Strip," he said.

A cursory examination of the compound shows why all of Israel's air power did not suffice to paralyze

Hamas's industry of terror and death. Huge bomb craters gape on the grounds from IAF strikes preceding the ground offensive. But despite the heavy bombardment, which likely damaged infrastructures and even missile launch pits, nearby plants, in civilian buildings and underground, continued churning out thousands of mortar shells and rockets.

"Production at this facility could only be stopped as we did, on the ground, meter after meter, shed after shed," says Moyal as we pass by a nearby blast crater.

## The cruelty in Hamas's design

Exiting one of the compound's buildings, Salah al-Din Road is clearly visible. A civilian building situated right on the road was damaged in the fighting, with a hole breached in the wall. Through the hole, a clothing store is visible. Neat rows of hangars and dresses appear through the dusty air of the ruined refugee camp. In an adjacent building is the local headquarters of a cellphone company. The upper floors evidently served for residence.

The Hamas "Military Production" plant did not operate behind fences, but right in a neighborhood where civilians carried on daily life—chilling evidence of Hamas locating its factories of death amid the civilian population. The terrorist enterprise was deliberately placed next to civilian buildings to try to prevent harm to its facilities, or exact so heavy a civilian toll as to compel Israel to halt the operation.

This proximity between terrorist infrastructure and the local populace forced the IDF to operate meticulously and carefully, and the fear of terrorists remaining in shafts or explosives still detonating sometimes sends random spurts of gunfire echoing sporadically. Forces in the field have much work ahead to dismantle infrastructure so that it cannot serve Hamas again. It took Hamas years to build its subterranean plants and huge workshops, including the tunnel infrastructure connecting them.

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Website: [www.MarilynHazanDesigns.com](http://www.MarilynHazanDesigns.com)  
Email: [Info@MarilynHazanDesigns.com](mailto:Info@MarilynHazanDesigns.com)

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## Smartwatch Solution Alerts Deaf Israelis to Air-Raid Siren

Daughter of deaf parents is on a mission to get the watch to as many hearing-impaired Israelis as possible.

By John Jeffay, Israel 21C

For the first month of Israel's war against Hamas, Shani Bibi spent every night at her parents' apartment in Ramat Gan. Her father, Gavriel, and her mother, Miriam, are both deaf and would sleep through the air-raid siren. She moved in to wake them if necessary, so they could reach a shelter within 90 seconds.

But as the entrepreneur behind CODA

– a startup that uses AI to turn the spoken word into instant sign language – she was sure there must be a better solution.

And she found it. It's a smartwatch. Downloading one of the siren apps such as the one offered by the Home Front Command, which most Israelis have on their smartphones, makes the watch vibrate and wake the user.

Bibi tested 20 makes and models of smartwatch and found only one – the Xiaomi 8 – that would readily connect with siren apps and had a function to set the length and intensity of the vibration.

She has distributed the first batch of over 300 watches to the deaf community in Tel Aviv.

Ron Huldai, mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo, said,

"Our job in these complex days is to take care of all the populations in the city. That's why we purchased vibrating smart watches that warn of an alarm and missile fire for the deaf and hard of hearing residents of the city. Social resilience, accessibility and equality are more important these days than ever. We will continue to take care of everyone who needs us now."

## Gaza Hospital Director Admits Serving as Hamas Commander

Ahmed Kahlot, director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, told Israeli interrogators he was recruited into the terror group as a lieutenant colonel.

By Pesach Benson, Jewish News Syndicate

The director of a Gaza hospital admitted to Israeli interrogators that he had been recruited by Hamas to help turn the Strip's medical centers into military facilities, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) announced on December 20.



Ahmed Kahlot, director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital

In a video released by the Shin Bet, Ahmed Kahlot, director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, said, "I was recruited to Hamas in 2010 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. There are employees in the hospital who are military operatives of Izz ad-Din al-Qassam [Hamas's "military branch"]—doctors, brothers, paramedics, clerks, staff members."

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Kahlot added, "They hide in hospitals because they believe that a hospital is a safe place. They will not be harmed if they are inside a hospital."

Israel security forces arrested Kahlot on December 12. During the interrogation, Kahlot describes how Hamas used hospitals and ambulances to hide operatives, launch military activity, transport members of terror squads and even deliver a kidnapped Israeli soldier.

"Hamas has offices inside the hospitals. There are places for senior officials, they also brought a kidnapped soldier there. There is a designated place for investigations, internal security and special security. They all have private phone lines inside the hospital," he said.

Regarding the kidnapped soldier, Kahlot explained that "Hamas uses private ambulances. It has a different color, and no license plate. It was used to bring the

kidnapped soldier and to transfer bodies. It comes and goes and does not take down the wounded."

Kahlot told the interrogator: "Once I begged them to take a wounded man to the Indonesian hospital, for healing, for treatment. They refused. Their mission is more important."

Hamas's leaders, he continued, "are cowards. They left us in the field while they

hide.... They destroyed us."

On November 23, Israeli security forces arrested Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director of the Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest medical facility.

As far back as 2009, the Shin Bet reported during the war of that year that Hamas operatives were hiding in the hospital, and that the basement had become its headquarters. In addition to being used

to hide Hamas leaders and hostages, the terror group is known to have launched rockets, tortured suspected collaborators and hoarded a half-million liters of fuel in the hospital compound.

Other Gazans interrogated by Israel have confirmed that Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have also embedded themselves in other hospitals and in the Strip's Palestinian Red Crescent headquarters.

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# Citing Risk to Elie Wiesel's 'Night,' Iowa Judge Blocks Key Parts of State Book Ban Law

By Andrew Lapin, JTA

A federal judge in Iowa has blocked much of a state law forbidding school libraries from stocking books depicting "sex acts," in part because he said it was keeping a classic Holocaust memoir off shelves.

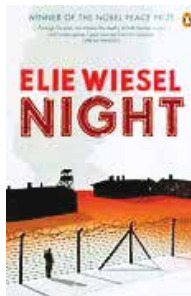
U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Locher granted a preliminary injunction against the law, Iowa Senate File 496, on Friday, just before a Jan. 1 deadline for schools to begin enforcing it. The "staggeringly broad" law, he wrote in his opinion, would prevent public schools from stocking "non-fiction history books about the Holocaust." He pointed specifically to Elie Wiesel's "Night" as an example of a book that could be caught in the dragnet.

Lochner had previously brought up "Night" during oral arguments about the Iowa law. At a Dec. 22 hearing, he grilled a state attorney about which kinds of books the state had the authority to pull from schools. Asked

if Wiesel's memoir could be pulled along with World War II history title "The Rape of Nanking," the attorney responded that it could, the Des Moines Register reported at the time.

At that hearing, Locher called the law "one of the most bizarre laws I've ever read in my life."

The injunction is temporary while Lochner considers the law and challenges against it more fully. Still, it represents a major blow to efforts by conservative legislators in Iowa to import a national effort to purge school libraries of books they consider inappropriate. The effort has focused on books about race and sexuality but has also led to books dealing with Judaism and the Holocaust being



challenged or removed.

"Night" previously entered the book-ban debate when a Pennsylvania district forced a librarian to take down a poster featuring a Wiesel quote.

In Iowa, months-old local reports and Locher's opinion indicated that "Night" was at one time removed from at least one Iowa public school district, although a regularly updated database of pulled books maintained by the Des Moines Register no longer lists the title.

Other Jewish books have also been affected by the law. "Maus," Art Spiegelman's graphic Holocaust memoir, was on the chopping block in at least one district along with Judy Blume's "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret," before the school reversed course and put them back on shelves. According to the Des Moines Register, "Maus" remains banned at another Iowa district: Alta-Aurelia, in a rural northwest region of the state.

Iowa's Republican governor, Kim Reynolds, signed SF 496 into law last year along with other culture-war legislation targeting transgender athletes and student pronouns in schools.

Locher's ruling said that most parts of the law, including the provisions requiring schools to ban all books depicting a "sex act" and prohibiting instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation through the sixth grade, could not go into effect.

Two separate lawsuits challenging the law's constitutionality will remain active in the meantime: One of them was brought by Penguin Random House and four bestselling authors, including Jodi Picoult, while the other was brought by LGBTQ students.

Challenges to similar laws are also winding through courts in Texas and Florida.

## BBC Apologizes for Airing Hamas Propaganda

Britain's public broadcaster issues another mea culpa on the Israel-Hamas war, admitting it was mistaken in publishing Hamas' claim Israel 'executed' Gazans.

By World Israel News Staff

The British Broadcasting Corporation walked back a story, admitting on January 12th that the news item in

question on the Israel-Hamas war was not properly investigated before being aired on the radio.

On December 24th, the BBC aired a radio news bulletin which carried claims promoted by the Hamas terrorist organization, accusing Israel of 'summarily executing' at least 137 Gaza civilians during the war in the coastal enclave.

The broadcast, which appears to have been based off of an unverified AFP report, noted that the source of the claim was the Hamas terror organization, but, as the BBC acknowledged, the accusation itself had not been properly scrutinized.

"In overnight output we ran a story about Hamas accusing the Israeli army of carrying out summary executions in the Gaza Strip," the BBC wrote in its "Corrections and Clarifications" section.

"This was a Hamas statement, but although the accusations were attributed and our story contained a response from the Israeli military saying they were unaware of the incident and that Hamas was a terrorist organisation that did not value truth, we had not made sufficient effort to seek corroborating evidence to

justify reporting the Hamas claim. We apologise for this mistake."

This is not the first time the UK's public broadcaster has issued a mea culpa regarding its coverage of the Israel-Arab conflict.

In July, the BBC issued a statement walking back claims by anchor Anjana Gadgil accusing the IDF of being "happy to kill children."

Following the October 7th invasion of Israel, the BBC again apologized over its coverage, acknowledging that the broadcaster mishandled coverage of the explosion at the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, inappropriately speculating that the explosion could have been the result of an Israeli air strike.

Speaking without evidence, BBC correspondent Jon Donnison said that the hospital explosion was likely caused by an Israeli strike.

Shortly thereafter, evidence emerged implicating a misfired rocket launched by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror organization.

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# Six Jewish Students Sue Harvard University for Discrimination

By Andrew Bernard, Jewish News Syndicate

Six Jewish students are suing Harvard University alleging a hostile, antisemitic environment in violation of civil-rights law, the New York law firm representing them announced on Thursday.

The six, represented by Kasowitz Benson Torres, say in their 77-page suit that the Cambridge, Mass. Ivy League school discriminates against Jewish students in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Harvard's antisemitism cancer—as a past Harvard president termed it—manifests itself in a double standard invidious to Jews," per the suit. "Harvard selectively enforces its policies to avoid protecting Jewish students from harassment, hires professors who support anti-Jewish violence and spread antisemitic propaganda and ignores Jewish students' pleas for protection."

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act protects against discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any federal-funded program. Harvard received \$676 million—11% of its total revenue—from the federal government in 2023, according to its annual financial report.

Harvard's hostile, antisemitic environment has become acute in the aftermath of Hamas's Oct. 7 terror attacks on Israel, with the university failing to take action against professors and students who celebrated the massacre and disrupted life on campus with anti-Israel protests, per the suit.

"When, in clear violation of Harvard policies, a mob of students took over a campus building to further their antisemitic agenda, Harvard's response was not to remove and discipline them, but to supply them with burritos and candy," the lawsuit states, among other examples.

Kenneth L. Marcus, founder and chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and a former assistant U.S. secretary of education for civil rights, told JNS that there is reason to believe that Harvard is in legal jeopardy.

"Harvard is a ripe target for antisemitism litigation, and no one should be surprised to see this lawsuit filed," Marcus said. "It may be the first

but probably won't be the last in light of both the nature of the events that they faced and also the feebleness of their responses."

'Not just one random complaint'

Jason Newton, a Harvard spokesman, told JNS that the university had no comment on the pending litigation but pointed to a Nov. 9 statement from Harvard's former president Claudine Gay about actions the school was taking to combat antisemitism on campus.

Newton added that Harvard would not comment on disciplinary actions against students. He cited news articles about proceedings against students, who took part in disruptive anti-Israel demonstrations.

Gay resigned as president on Jan. 2 amid allegations that she had plagiarized parts of her academic work and in the aftermath of her congressional testimony, in which she was asked if calling for the genocide of Jews would violate Harvard's code of conduct.

"It depends on the context," said Gay, who remains a member of the faculty reportedly with a \$900,000 salary.

Gay later apologized for that response in an interview with *The Harvard Crimson*.

"When words amplify distress and pain, I don't know how you could feel anything but regret," Gay said.

Despite Gay's resignation, Harvard continues to face congressional scrutiny as part of an investigation by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce into Jew-hatred on U.S. campuses.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) launched the investigation on Jan. 9 with a letter to the Harvard Corporation's senior fellow and the university's interim president.

Marcus told JNS that congressional investigation and civil rights lawsuits would amplify the pressure on Harvard to deal with complaints of antisemitism on campus.

"The combined pressure of the congressional inquiry together with multiple complaints will sooner or later add up," he predicted.

"This is not just one random complaint," he added. "It is part of

a broader effort to hold Harvard responsible for its failure to comply with federal civil rights laws when it comes to Jewish students."

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**Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:30 pm**

Carl St. Clair, Music Director

Olga Kern, Piano

Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Brahms: Symphony No. 1

Sponsored by Norman Forrester & William Griffin



### SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

**Sunday, February 18, 2024, 5 pm**

Rafael Payare, Music Director

Pacho Flores, Trumpet

Ravel: *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2 | Ortiz: *Altar de bronce*, Concerto for Trumpet

Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin* | Debussy: *La Mer*

Sponsored by Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler, The Nevinny Family, Gail Richards



### ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:30 pm**

Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director

Haochen Zhang, Piano

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor" | Dvořák: Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Sponsored by Phyllis & Gary Schahet

\*In memoriam



### SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

**Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:30 pm**

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- **Nancy Altshule**, Thank you for a wonderful **Perry Altshule**, Best wishes for a very happy 85th birthday. Margot & Jerry Halperin.\*\*
- **Dana Federman**, Happy birthday! Wishes for a beautiful, healthy year from Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas.
- **Lori and Brad Fritz**, Mazel tov on the birth of your grandson in Omaha, Nebraska, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Phil Glass**, Wishing you a very Happy Birthday, from Arnie and Sue Gillman, Harold and Mimi Paley, Larry and Cathy Pitts.
- **Wendy and Bob Goodfriend**, Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Carol and Bill Kaplan**, Thank you for including us to attend the Palm Springs International Film Festival Gala, from Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas.
- **Rabbi Yankel Kreiman**, Happy birthday! Wishes for a beautiful year, from Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas.
- **Stephen and Marjorie Kulp**, Thank you for lovely evening, from Gail and Bob Scadron, Leslie and Barry Usow.

- **Cydney Osterman and Ken Schoenfeld**, Thank you for a lovely evening, from Jim Levitas and Barbara Federman.
- **Leslie Usow**, Wishing you a very happy birthday from Robin and Eric Hananael.

## Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Arnie Gillman**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Carol Kaplan**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Jane Sherman.

## Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Kathi Balaban**, In memory of your beloved brother, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Robert Brieff**, Our deepest condolences on the death of your father, from Justin and Robert Schneider.
- **Jeffrey Daube and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Lorrie, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Marcia Eisner**, In memory of Alex Eisner, from Judy and Jack Feinberg.
- **Elaine Gershenson**, In memory of your beloved mother, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.

- **Mrs. William Gofen**, Thinking of you in this time of great sorrow, from Marnie Miller.
- **Paula Goodheart and Family**, In memory of your beloved mother Naomi, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Veda Ofseyer and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, Rabbi Jordan Ofseyer, from Harriet Goldberg, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Rabbi Yaakov Rone**, Condolences on the passing of your brother Baruch Ronberg, OBM, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Raina Ruskin**, in memory of your beloved husband, Howard, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Joe Noren and Marnie Miller.
- **Michael Scoby**, In loving memory of Gloria Scoby, from Judy and Jack Feinberg, Sande and Ed Fineman, Frances Horwich, Loreen Jacobson\*, Joan and Pat Kerns\*\*, Larry and Cathy Pitts, Jane and Larry Sherman, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Tom Weil**, in loving memory of Helaine Weil, from Larry and Cathy Pitts, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Rodney Zolt**, In memory of Kevin, from Robert and Carol Friedman, Arnie and Sue Gillman.

\* *Donation made to victims of terror.*

\*\*

*Donation made to Israel Emergency Fund*

## OpEd - The Necessity to Speak Up

*As we wonder how so many western liberals have been drafted into the patently un-liberal cause of Hamas, we must recognize that a significant part of the problem is that Jews and our allies have been too passive.*

*By Marc Erlbaum, Jewish News Syndicate*

The daily dilemma: You see a post on social media about Israel that is egregiously misleading, and you have to decide whether it is worth it to respond. On the one hand, there is an untruth that needs to be corrected, lest who knows how many others be misinformed. On the other hand, it is likely that if you do comment, a back and forth will ensue with the person who originated the post that will be at least time-consuming, and possibly contentious as well.

Even if you are successful in having a civil exchange with the one who

shared the inaccurate or deceptive material, in the age of misinformation and malleable "facts," it is unlikely that he or she will be convinced, and even more unlikely that the post will be retracted. So the cost in time and emotional engagement, coupled with the risk of being subjected to vicious ad hominem attacks and accusations, makes it difficult to speak up.

Yet it is incredibly important to speak up. Here's why:

In the 1950s, a psychologist named Solomon Asch conducted a series of "Conformity Experiments" which

reveal a fascinating fact about human behavior that is tremendously relevant in the age of social media. In short, the tests comprised a group of eight respondents who were asked to identify simple differences between basic images they were shown. Seven of the eight respondents were hired actors who were secretly instructed to provide the wrong answer. The eighth respondent was not aware of the setup, and in over one third of the cases provided the same wrong answer given by the seven who had answered erroneously before him. When the

same subjects were tested individually, without the influence of the group, they answered correctly over 99% of the time.

These findings indicate that people often conform to the prevalent opinions and attitudes of the majority group even when they are demonstrably false and contrary to one's personal experience. The fact that group influence resulted in wrong answers 33% of the time informs us that if we allow false information to promulgate without contradiction, a significant percentage of people will be

*continued on page 21*



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# Shabbat Schedule - February 2024

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42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636.  
IN-PERSON Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch.  
Visitors welcome with valid identification. For information, email [info@congregationbethshalom.net](mailto:info@congregationbethshalom.net) or call 760-200-3636.  
[www.CongregationBethShalom.net](http://www.CongregationBethShalom.net)

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**Ckids Hebrew School** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Check our schedule online Info: [chabardm.com/ckids](mailto:chabardm.com/ckids) or Chaya Posner: [chaya@chabardm.com](mailto:chaya@chabardm.com) or 760-272-1923.

## **CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT**

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.

Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: [info@chabadsuncity.com](mailto:info@chabadsuncity.com) for schedule.  
Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: [sussiedenebeim@gmail.com](mailto:sussiedenebeim@gmail.com).

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[harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)  
760-779-1691.

Website: [harelurjpd.org](http://harelurjpd.org).  
Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi Richard Zions shares a D'var Torah on a timely topic based on our timeless tradition. Cantor Joseph Gole provides inspiring melodies and insights from our Shabbat Eve liturgy. Attendees are encouraged to click on the Zoom presentation early for a conversation with clergy and congregants. Har-El welcomes visitors from out of state as well as those in California and the Coachella Valley.  
Rabbi Zions holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com).

## **DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage**

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box

982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.  
Shabbat services held on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School begins again on October 8<sup>th</sup> and is held Saturday mornings (from 9:45 AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for Children with Arava Talve. "Talkin' Torah": See listing on Community Calendar. Check website for most current information: [www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com](http://www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com) or [www.my-dos.org](http://www.my-dos.org)

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In-person services each 1st Friday of the month and 3rd Shabbat morning. Online services all other Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings of the month. Kabbalat Shabbat Service - Fridays 6:30 pm; Shabbat prayer and study - Saturdays 10:30 am.

## **SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert**

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in Sun City Palm Desert the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information: Nadine Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

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Email: [templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com).  
Shabbat Candle Lighting on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd Friday with Kerry Abram; 4th Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat. Shabbat Book Study with Rabbi Malka Drucker on Zoom Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm. Check our website for current info including Torah Study with Rabbi Ilana one Saturday morning per month. For more information and for Zoom link call 951-468-0004.

## **TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs**

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. ([rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com)). Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela join Rabbi on the bima most weeks.  
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: [temple@templeisiahps.com](mailto:temple@templeisiahps.com); [www.templeisiahps.com](http://www.templeisiahps.com).  
Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm and Oneg following. Saturday morning torah study, "Nosh and Drash," begins at 10:30 am. All services also streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program.  
**Dor Hadash** (New Generation) **Religious School** for children 8 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah held Shabbat afternoons at 1:00 pm online with Rabbi Rosenberg.

## **TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert**

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)  
Rabbi David Novak  
[rabbid@templesinai.org](mailto:rabbid@templesinai.org)  
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. [www.templesinai.org](http://www.templesinai.org) 760-568-9699.  
Go to [templesinai.org](http://templesinai.org) for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at [www.templesinai.org](http://www.templesinai.org). Friday evening services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am.  
**Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School** 9:30 - 12:00 AM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Contact Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Community Educator, [educator@templesinai.org](mailto:educator@templesinai.org)

## **BIKUR CHOLIM**

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach) [www.BikurCholimPS.com](http://www.BikurCholimPS.com)  
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076, and Rabbi Mendy Kreiman - 760-567-6726.



# Community Calendar of Programs - February 2024

**Har-El** offers three classes with **Rabbi Richard Zions** on Zoom on Mondays for residents and non-residents: 10:30 AM—Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class; 1:00 PM—Conversion to Judaism; 4:00 PM—Youth Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation. Individual Zoom Sessions will be offered for beginning students who require extra preparation for group study. For registration and additional information, email: [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com) or call Rabbi Zions at (760) 668-9943.

## **Tuesdays:**

**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai weekly class on ZOOM, "Torah in Translation" where participants join **Rabbi David Novak** in reading the Torah in various English translations. Contact *rabbi for ZOOM information*.

**5:00-6:45 pm** Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular weekly **BBQ** is back for the season. Check their website ([www.chabadrm.com](http://www.chabadrm.com)) for convenient reservations/order form.

**6:00-7:15 pm** Temple Isaiah **Aleph-Bet for Adults** beginning Hebrew Class led by **Dr. Gary Levin**. By end of course participants will be able to read Hebrew prayers in the Siddur. Class closed. Call to register for next course, 760-325-2281.

**7:00 pm** – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Tanya, a class for women, with **Sussie Denebeim**. Call 760-848-8250 for more information.

## **Wednesdays:**

**11:00 am** Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Covenant and Conquest: The Book of Joshua" on Zoom. Link: visit [orhamidbar.org](http://orhamidbar.org).

**7:00 pm** Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

**7:00 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner**. For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

**8:00 pm** – Temple Isaiah "Judaism 2.0 with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM: Judaism 2.0: "Jewish Observance in a Contemporary World." To participate, email Rabbi at [rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com).

## **Thursdays:**

**11:00 am** Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Actively Engaging: Jews and Christians Reading Together Isaiah 40-55 on Zoom. Link: visit [orhamidbar.org](http://orhamidbar.org).

**11:45 am** Temple Sinai: **Rabbi David Novak** hosts a weekly "Lunch 'n' Learn" in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel.

## **Saturdays:**

**1:30 pm** Temple Isaiah "Jewish University" features adult education classes as well as religious school learning opportunities and Bnai Mitzvah preparation for the Temple's growing group of young people. Check website for programs: [www.templeisaiahps.com](http://www.templeisaiahps.com).

## **YOUTH AND TEENS:**

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. Ckids Club for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. CTeen is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. For more information on kids' club events, or to register, visit us on the web [www.chabadrm.com/ckids](http://www.chabadrm.com/ckids).

## **Wednesday, January 31**

**3:30 pm** Second presenter in Har-El's Borns Lecture Series. Live and on Zoom. **Professor Tammi**

**Rossmann-Benjamin**, UC Santa Cruz, "**Combating Antisemitism on College and University Campus.**" Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of the Desert and held in its meeting room. To register email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)

## **Sunday, February 4**

**3:00 pm** Beth Shalom - Movie & Guest Speaker: "An Article of Hope," documentary on Israeli Astronaut, Ilan Ramon, followed by in-person conversation with Yoram Uadin, PhD, a close friend and flight school classmate of Colonel Ramon. Visitors Welcome! Light snacks included. Members \$10 / Non-members \$15. Reservation deadline: Wednesday, January 31. Information: 760-200-3636.

## **Monday, February 5**

**3:00 pm** Café Europa 2.0 and Jewish Federation's Jewish Book Council Event. Virtual book review of **Anatomy of Genocide** with author Omer Bartov. Program held at the Jewish Federation. RSVP to Leslie Pepper at [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737. See article page 6.

## **Wednesday, February 7**

**3:30 pm** Har-El "**Books and Bordeaux**" Galen Course, reviews a book each month, sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation. This month, the book is "The Little Liar" by Mitch Albom; a New York Times instant best seller! This program is held in a home and registration is limited. For information, contact [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com).

## **Wednesday, February 7**

**5:00 pm** Jewish Federation of the Desert **Major Gifts Event**, held at the Jewish Federation building. See front and back pages of the paper for information.

## **Sunday, February 11**

**1:00 pm** Twice Blessed of Temple Isaiah/JCC invites the community to hear comedian **Jason Stuart** and singer **Francesca Amari**, accompanied by **Wayne Abravanel**. See ad page 9.

## **Wednesday, February 14**

**10:00 am** Women's Philanthropy welcomes Deborah Applegate, author of "Madame", the biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age for an in person discussion of her book. RSVP to Leslie Pepper at [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org) or call 760-324-4737. See article page 5.

## **Sunday, February 18, 2024**

Har-El "**Conversations With A Scholar**" Dr. Steven Windmueller, Past Director, Zelikow School of Jewish Non-Profit Management, HUC, Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Windmueller will address "Current Jewish Concerns." Reservations Required, Limited Seating, Home Hosted.

## **Tuesday, February 20**

**11:30 am** Jewish National Fund (JNF) **Stand With Israel Luncheon** with Ambassador Michael Oren. For information call 760-864-6208. Reservations required by February 12.

## **Sunday, February 25**

**9:30 am** Temple Sinai. Screening of "**Last Flight Home**," a documentary of one person's decision to use California's end-of-life law, followed by a panel discussion.

**Email (preferred)**  
**Miriam Bent at**  
**[mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net)**  
**or call**  
**760-323-0255**  
**to have your events**  
**included in the**  
**community calendar.**

# Dozens of Penn Professors Spent the Week in Israel, Following Their University President's Antisemitism Resignation

By Deborah Danan, JTA

After October 7, Michael Kahana joined hundreds of his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania in signing an open letter condemning Hamas and expressing support for Israel and its right to self defense. But the psychology professor wanted to do more.

So Kahana sent an email to the 340 signatories on the letter, which came amid scathing criticism of Penn's response to Hamas' attack on Israel, and invited them on a trip.

This week, the 39 Penn professors who took Kahana up on the invitation spent three days traveling in Israel, in the first solidarity visit by faculty members of an Ivy League school since the outbreak of the war on October 7 and the congressional hearing on campus antisemitism that led directly to the resignation of Penn's president.

Many but not all of the professors on the trip were Jewish, and some were visiting Israel for the first time. During their 66-hour visit, they met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and families of hostages including Rachel Goldberg, the Israeli-American mother of Hersh Goldberg-Polin who has emerged as a stalwart voice advocating for the more than 130 people still held by Hamas in Gaza. In what has become a new rite of passage for visitors to Israel, they also visited devastated Gaza border communities where they heard accounts from survivors and first responders, according to a statement released by the mission's tour operator, Israel Destination.

A significant focus of the mission was meeting with academic colleagues from major Israeli institutions, the statement said, including the Hebrew University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Tel Aviv University, to allow for "deeper mutual understanding of the challenges posed to academia by war and conflict on one side, and antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiments on the other." The delegation also met with Penn alumni living in Israel and heard from Israeli officials, including Amir Yaron, the governor of the Bank of Israel who previously was a



A delegation of University of Pennsylvania professors visits a southern Israel kibbutz that was attacked by Hamas on October 7



U Penn professors at Israeli presidential residence in Jerusalem

professor at Penn's Wharton School of Business, during a banquet at Tel Aviv's ANU Museum.

"I was truly surprised to see how much our visit meant to our Israeli colleagues and by my own overwhelming emotional response to hearing from Israelis firsthand," cinema and media studies professor Peter Decherney, who worked with Kahana to organize the trip, said in the statement.

The delegation took place amid a backdrop of tension at Penn, which was already embroiled in an antisemitism controversy surrounding a Palestinian writers conference on campus when Hamas attacked Israel. President Liz Magill resigned in December shortly

after being called to testify before Congress about campus antisemitism — and refraining from saying that calling for the genocide of Jews was a violation of the university's code of conduct. (Penn's board president also resigned and has been replaced temporarily by Julie Platt, who also chairs Jewish Federations of North America.)

While the group was in Israel, a second college president who took the same stance during the congressional hearing stepped down. Harvard University's Claudine Gay also faced allegations of plagiarism that emerged as her critics took aim following the university's initial response to

Hamas' attack.

Kahana pointed to the global academic community's failure to express support to Israeli academics after October 7.

"Academic communities are incredibly small, tight-knit families that span the globe," Kahana said, according to the statement. "When the horrific trauma of October 7 struck the Israeli academic community, people awaited words of comfort from their close colleagues and friends, but for many, those words did not come."

Kahana and Decherney barely knew each other prior to organizing the trip, even though they have worked on the same campus for years. In fact, many of the Penn professors, from varied disciplines like statistics, film, and orthopedics, had never met before the mission.

Now, the professors are "returning home with a greater understanding of how the U.S. academic community can support their Israeli colleagues during this traumatic time, and with renewed vigor to withstand the antisemitism and anti-Israel feelings prevalent on campus," the statement said.

Decherney expressed his hope that the visit would "inspire more university communities to move past divisive cultures and come themselves."

According to Yair Jablinowitz from Israel Destination, which specializes in educational tourism, since the Penn mission became public, the tour operator has received dozens of inquiries into similar visits from representatives at other universities, including Harvard, Columbia, Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — many of which are, like Penn, facing federal Department of Education investigations over their handling of antisemitism complaints.

"There is definitely now a drive to go on these types of delegations," he told JTA. "The Penn delegation had an influence not only on the academic world in Israel and the people of Israel that they met, but also on Ivy League schools throughout North America."

# California Jewish Lawmakers Send Colleagues Anguished Letter Asking for Support

By Maya Mirsky, "J" of Northern California

Members of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, a group of state-level politicians who advocate for issues of concern to the Jewish community, have written an emotional letter to colleagues asking for their "support and solidarity."

The open letter was released Wednesday, the start of the 2024 legislative session, which was cut short when a protest led by the anti-Zionist group Jewish Voice for Peace and other organizations prevented the state Assembly from conducting business.

In the letter, the caucus members ask their peers to understand the depth of the trauma American Jews have been feeling since the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre and to lament a "shocking" lack of empathy from "individuals and organizations that we have considered allies."

"It has impacted many of us on a deeply personal level, and we find ourselves asking fundamental questions — including about the security of our families and our community — that we could not have imagined several months ago," the letter states.

The five-page letter speaks to the

feeling of abandonment that many Jews have expressed since Oct. 7.

"The far right and far left in America view each other as existential enemies, yet the one thing they seemingly can agree on is that Jews are a unique problem responsible for various evils in the world," the letter states. "Our community is trapped between white nationalists who hate us because they believe we are behind a plan to diminish the influence of white people and far-left ideologues who hate us because we are somehow the epitome of white oppressors."

All but one of the 19 caucus members signed the letter: Assemblymembers Dawn Addis (Morro Bay), Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (Orinda), Marc Berman (Menlo Park), Laura Friedman (Burbank), co-chair Jesse Gabriel (Encino), Jacqui Irwin (Thousand Oaks), Josh Lowenthal (Long Beach), Gail Pellerin (Santa Cruz), Blanca Rubio (Baldwin Park), Chris Ward (San Diego) and Rick Chavez Zbur (Los Angeles), and Sens. Ben Allen (Santa Monica), Josh Becker (Menlo Park), Steve Glazer (Orinda), Josh Newman (Fullerton), Susan Rubio (Baldwin Park), Henry

Stern (Calabasas) and co-chair Scott Wiener (San Francisco).

The only member of the Jewish caucus whose name does not appear on the letter is Matt Haney, who represents San Francisco in the Assembly. Haney's office did not immediately respond to J's request for comment.

The caucus letter named priorities for the new session, including setting up a select committee on antisemitism to explore policy solutions, addressing the "toxic anti-Jewish environment" at California's public universities, keeping anti-Jewish and anti-Israel bias out of K-12 classrooms, creating better standards for reporting antisemitic incidents in schools and colleges, boosting Holocaust education, and putting more money into the security grant program. The program covers physical security measures for synagogues and Jewish organizations, such as fences and better lighting, and training on what to do during a violent attack.

The letter also makes a case for empathy across the board.

"We want to name and mourn the devastation that is occurring in Gaza,"

it states. "Far too many Palestinian civilians, including a heartbreaking number of children, have been killed — civilians who are not Hamas and who did not commit the October 7 massacre. While Hamas has cynically used these civilians as human shields and intentionally placed them in harm's way, we believe Israel must do everything possible to protect civilian life while it defends itself."

The letter reaffirms the caucus commitment to a two-state solution and condemns Islamophobia but does not call for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war.

That was the demand of hundreds of protesters who, according to the Sacramento Bee, filled the Capitol rotunda and the Assembly gallery, where they hung banners and chanted. According to the Bee, the protest was organized by JVP, IfNotNow and the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network.

Eventually the Assembly session was adjourned and the lights were turned off. The state Senate session was not interrupted.

*continued from page 16*

swayed even if they do not necessarily agree with that information.

A variation on the test provided another remarkable finding which strongly reinforces the necessity of speaking up to counter false claims. When Asch introduced a "true partner" to the study—that is, one other respondent who provided the correct answer—then the unwitting subject conformed with the lying majority only 5% of the time. In other words, even though the vast majority of the group still provided the wrong answer, the presence of just one true voice reduced the incidence of conformity almost completely.

Applying these findings to today's social media, it is clear that a single comment on a deceptive post can make a significant difference. It may not change the opinion of the poster, but it will have an effect on those who

see the post. A single voice of question or challenge will reduce the extent to which the inaccurate post convinces those who are not as educated on the subject.

The fact is that each of us has a part in the war that is raging in Israel and the ideological battle that is being waged online. We may not be carrying a firearm on the front lines to defend innocent civilian lives with our flesh and blood, but we each have a vital role to play and we can't rely on someone else to handle this for us. In the age of social media, we are all "journalists" capable of influencing those around us.

As we wonder how so many western liberals have been drafted into the patently un-liberal cause of Hamas, we must recognize that a significant part of the problem is that Jews and our allies have been too passive. Confident that we had truth and reason on our side,

we felt that we didn't need to counter every ridiculous statement. But if a lie is repeated enough times, it is eventually accepted as truth—particularly if it is not corrected.

If you don't know how to best respond to the propaganda in your feed, reach out to those who do. I have had numerous people contact me over the last few months asking me how I would respond to this post or that. It is indeed a time drain, but the importance of this existential battle makes it worth the energy.

In addition to responding to misinformation, each of us has the opportunity to proactively influence the discourse in our circles. Posting (or sharing) the truth about the history of this conflict will counter the vast amount of lies that are being circulated by Israel's enemies. If you don't have sufficient information at your disposal, there are a number of talented Israel

advocates (like Noa Tishby, Dani Butler, Lizzy Savetsky, Community news, and many others) on all of the major platforms who provide a wealth of informative content. Share their posts and let your network know that you are not afraid to stand for the truth.

Silence here is quite literally violence. If we don't respond, then the enemies of peace and coexistence will continue to deceive and radicalize the masses through the conformity experiments that they have been conducting surreptitiously over the past several decades. We have seen the results, and they are devastating. It is time to step up and be the "true partner" that enabled Asch's subjects to resist the lying majority and speak the obvious truth.

*Marc Erlbaum is a filmmaker and the co-founder of Philadelphia's Jewish Relief Agency.*



## Have A Nosh

With no Jewish holidays in February, I decided to give you three easy dessert breads to wow your family or guests that drop in for a shmooze and cup of coffee. The chocolate chip banana bread is the result of my "improving" a tried-and-true recipe of my mother-in-



law, and even she agreed it was better! The cherry-chocolate bread works with both fresh and frozen-defrosted cherries, with the latter an advantage because you can get them already pitted! The Apple Monkey bread is incredibly easy to make and a fun item to serve! Happy noshing! MHB

### ORANGE-BANANA BREAD WITH CHOCOLATE CHIPS

1 cup sugar	1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup butter, margarine or Crisco	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 egg	2 cups flour
3 mashed ripe bananas	3/4 teaspoon orange extract
1/2 teaspoon salt	3/4 to 1 cup chocolate chips
2 Tablespoons milk or orange juice	1/2 cup nuts

Mix in order given. Divide into two small loaf pans that have been sprayed with Pam, and a rectangle of wax or parchment paper set into the bottom of each pan. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 40 minutes, or until wooden skewer inserted in center comes out clean. Run a knife along the sides of the pan and invert onto a rack. Remove wax paper. Freezes well. Makes two small loaves.

*(I do everything in my food processor, using normally except for the final addition of chocolate chips and nuts. Once those two ingredients are added to the bowl, just pulse for a second or two, to distribute the chips and nuts, not pulverize them!)*

### CHERRY CHOCOLATE LOAF

1 teaspoon unsalted butter	1/4 cup plain yogurt
2 cups all-purpose flour	1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon kosher salt	2 cups pitted cherries (fresh or frozen)
1 teaspoon baking powder	1/2 cup chocolate chips chunks
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened	<i>Optional Icing:</i>
1 cup white sugar	1/4 cup powdered sugar
2 large eggs, at room temperature	3 teaspoons milk, or more as needed

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x4-inch loaf pan with 1 teaspoon butter and reserve. Whisk flour, salt, baking powder, and baking soda together in a bowl.

Cream 1/2 cup butter and sugar together in another bowl with a spatula or an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Beat in eggs one at a time with a whisk or an electric mixer, fully blending in the first egg before adding the next. Stir in yogurt and vanilla extract.

Chop pitted cherries coarsely with a knife, or by pulsing on and off a few times in a food processor. If using frozen cherries make sure they are thawed and well drained. Add to the wet ingredients along with the chocolate chunks and chopped walnuts. Stir briefly to combine. Batter may look curdled, but don't worry.

Pour in the flour mixture and mix with a spatula until all the flour has disappeared. Transfer batter into the prepared loaf pan, making sure to smooth the top evenly and fill in the corners. Tap pan on the counter to release any air pockets.

Bake in the preheated oven until nicely browned and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Let bread rest in the pan for 15 minutes before removing to a wire rack.

While bread is resting, combine powdered sugar and milk in a bowl for icing, adding more milk as needed to reach a thin, runny consistency.

Brush icing over loaf, allowing to drip down the sides. Let cool completely before slicing and serving, about 20 minutes more.

### MONKEY BREAD WITH APPLES

1 cup white sugar	3 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon	1/2 cup margarine
3 (12 ounce) cans refrigerator biscuits,	1 cup packed brown sugar

separated and cut into quarters  
Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F Grease a tube pan. Combine the sugar and cinnamon together in a large sealable plastic bag; add the biscuit dough in batches of 6 to 8 pieces and shake to coat. Alternate layers of the chopped apple and the coated dough pieces in the prepared pan.

Melt the margarine in a small saucepan over medium heat; stir the brown sugar into the melted margarine. Bring to a boil; cook at a boil for 1 minute, remove from heat, and pour over the apple and biscuit layers.

Bake in the preheated oven until cooked through, about 35 minutes. Allow the bread to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a plate to serve.

## Meet the IDF Reservist in Gaza Making Hummus from IDF Rations

Netta-Chaim has left behind his wife, family, and business to serve with his soldiers and is using his skills to make sure they have a full stomach.

By Michael Starr, The Jerusalem Post

An army marches on its stomach, Napoleon Bonaparte is supposed to have said, and this has remained true for IDF soldiers fighting in the Swords of Iron war.

While food is essential for military operations, warriors in Gaza battlefields can only rarely expect good, warm meals. Even food donated by the Israeli public arrives cold by the time it crosses the Gaza border.

However, for the 8111 infantry battalion's Kaf Company, tasty hot meals come a little more often thanks to Stav Netta-Chaim, the first platoon's sergeant. Often using little more than canned food and combat rations, the reservist uses his years of experience as a chef and restaurateur to cook up delicious meals that raise soldiers' morale even on the dampest Gaza nights.

As airstrikes, tank shells, and helicopter gunship rockets boomed in the background, Netta-Chaim made hummus, boiling the chickpeas in bottled water and soda on a camping stove, breaking down the proteins. After for two hours he skimmed the impurities off the top and, using an empty oil bottle, mashed the beans with garlic, onion, and lemon zest. The chickpea mash was mixed with za'atar, cumin, Hawayej, and tehina. Plates of the hummus were topped with spicy s'chug, and served with olives and pickles – also from combat rations cans. Pitot, toasted on the gas burner, were a serendipitous addition to the meal, brought in on a convoy.

Netta-Chaim has been cooking for his soldiers since he was first drafted

on October 7.

"It makes you forget for a second you're in a war."

When the company was first sent to Kissufim in the wake of the Hamas attack on October 7, the platoon had stationed itself in one of the residences. During the first Shabbat, spent securing the decimated kibbutz from terrorists and under mortar bombardment, Netta-Chaim let challah dough rise for 12 hours. He then baked the challot in a fire oven in one of the backyards. The braided bread was laced with salt and fresh oregano picked from a garden. The aroma of baked bread brought a sense of calm to the tense soldiers as they recited Shabbat Kiddush blessings.

Working with whatever one has on hand is a classic element of the Israeli military spirit, and it has often manifested in the way in which Israeli soldiers improve their conditions in the field. The company didn't have plates at the beginning of the tenure in the Khan Yunis outskirts but plenty of water bottles – leading us to cut them in half and use them as bowls. As Israeli soldiers love to eat, much ingenuity surrounds mealtime.

One of the most memorable meals that Netta-Chaim has made during the war is pizza. Netta-Chaim is one of the partners in Little Sister's Pizza, a non-kosher gourmet pizza parlor. The sergeant's partner brought the ovens and supplies and Netta-Chaim made 70 pizzas in two hours. "It was like seeing your kid again after a month," he recalled.



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## Simchas

Mazel tov to **Ashie Denebeim** and **Sara Drizin** on their marriage January 11<sup>th</sup> in Cedar Grove, New Jersey. Delighted parents are **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim**



## Classifieds

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## RABBI JORDAN S. OFSEYER 1935-2004



**Rabbi Jordan S. Ofseyer** passed away peacefully on Shabbat Shemot, Saturday, January 6, 2024.

He came to Palm Springs in 1999 and served as rabbi of Temple Isaiah through June 2026. He was born in 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. Rabbi Ofseyer was ordained a Rabbi and Cantor by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and served pulpits in New Haven, Connecticut; Springfield, Massachusetts; Dallas, Texas; and Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs, California. Following

his retirement, he served as interim rabbi in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and then, after the death of Rabbi Avi Levine in 2011, as interim rabbi at Temple Sinai in Palm Desert, California, as the congregation searched for their new rabbi.

Rabbi Ofseyer marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in Albany, Georgia shortly after his rabbinic ordination and remained actively involved with inter-faith concerns throughout his rabbinate. Although primarily a pulpit rabbi, he also served as adjunct professor, teaching Jewish theology and Jewish history at several universities. For many years he participated as a regular panelist on the weekly nationally televised inter-faith program "American Religious Town Hall."

In recent years he and his wife, Veda, attended Desert Outreach Synagogue, where he enjoyed a warm friendship with Rabbi Jules King and particularly enjoyed the music component of the services.

His funeral and interment was January 11, 2024, officiated by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg of Temple Isaiah. He leaves behind his wife of 49 years, Veda Ofseyer; four children: Jeremy Ofseyer (Alex) of Indian Wells, CA, Adina Florsheim (Alan) of Bellevue, Washington, Elana Ofseyer of Woodland Hills, CA, and Aaron Ofseyer (Annie) of Helena, Montana; and 6 grandchildren.



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Marc Kashinski, Marvin Morgenstein, Rabbi Jordan S. Ofseyer, and Jeannie Polinsky Rivkin.** *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, February 2	Shabbat Yitro	4:34 pm
Friday, February 9	Shabbat Mishpatim	4:41 pm
Friday, February 16	Shabbat Terumah	4:48 pm
Friday, February 23	Shabbat Tetzaveh	4:54 pm

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